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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/090,896	03/04/2002	Seibang Oh	112690-928	6503

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EXAMINER

PATEL, TULSIDAS C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 05/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/090,896

Applicant(s)

OH, SEIBANG

Examiner

T. C. Patel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

General Status

1. This is a First Action on the Merits. Claims 1-64 are pending in the case.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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3. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, 17-24, 26-31, 33-40, 42, 44-50 and 52-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by FR 2 805 662.

FR 2 805 662, in figures 1-7, discloses a fuse block comprising a body 15, a plurality of terminals 9, 12, fixed and exposed on at least one side (top side in figure 1) of the body, a fuse element 7 contacting at least two of the terminals. For claims 2-3, plastic body 15 and punched fuse element 7 are disclosed. For claims 6-8, the fuse element 7 is mounted on a substrate formed by strips 5 and 6, and connects the two terminals. Figure 1, also discloses two set of receptacles 3a for the terminals, and the terminals are arranged in two rows. For claims 9-11 the two terminals are electrically connected and the fuse elements 7 connecting each set of terminals, is capable of having different rating (current carrying capacity). For claim 13-15 and 17-19, one of the terminals is capable of being connected to a power supply line. For claims 20-24, multiple rows of terminals are disclosed in figure 2. For claims 26-29, a replacement fuse 20 is disclosed for the fuse element 7.

For claims 30 and 31, a junction box is disclosed in figure 2, a replacement fuse 20 is disclosed in figure 1. For claims 33-40, 42, 44-50 a protective element 15 with an aperture 19 is disclosed in figure 1. For claim 46, a fuse block is disclosed in figure 2 and the fuse block has a plurality of fuse elements connected to the terminals. Claims 52-56, the molded block with terminals and fuse element is disclosed in figures 1 and 2.

For claims 57-64, a fuse block with a plurality of fuses and replacement fuses are disclosed in figures 1 and 2. The arrangement of the fuse block is capable of receiving two different ratings of fuses in two sets of terminals. For claims 63 and 64, the method steps of making connections are also clear from the figures 1 and 2 and the disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5, 12, 16, 25, 32, 41, 43 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2 805 662 in view of Hamill (US 5,831,814).

As discussed above, FR 2 805 662 satisfies the limitation of claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, 17-24, 26-31, 33-40, 42, 44-50 and 52-64. However, FR '662 does not disclose terminals on a strip and also groove between the terminals. Hamill in figures 3 and 4, discloses terminals on a strip and also a groove between a short and a long terminals.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to Modify the fuse block of FR 662 and provide terminals on a strip as well as provide a long and short terminals with a groove between the two terminals as taught by Hamill, so that terminals can be connected to a terminal strip for supply of power and also a wire can be connected in the groove between the two terminals.

For claim 5, providing multiple strips for the fuse would be a matter of design choice and also for claim 43, FR '662 discloses the claimed invention except for the terminals have female connectors and the replacement fuse has male connectors. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reverse the

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arrangement, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. In re Einstein, 8 USPQ 167.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's invention. EP 1,109,190, Borzi et al. (US 6,077,102), Chiriku et al. (US 6,541,700), Chiriku et al. (US 6,515,226), Brussalis et al. (US 5,715,135) and Hamill et al. (US 5,207,587) all disclose junction boxes.

Applicant also should consider these references in response to this office action. Should issue arise concerning the rejection presented above, these references may be relied upon in a subsequent action to support the lack of novelty or obviousness of claimed subject matter to one of ordinary skill in the art.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to T. C. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 308-1736. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1736.



T. C. Patel
Primary Examiner
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tcp
May 25, 2003